



AQUARIUM SUMMER 2006

IN NEWS

NEWS MAGAZINE OF THE NORTH CAROLINA AQUARIUMS

NEW AQUARIUM DEBUTS

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- Exhibits?
- The Web site?
- Aquarium programs?
- *Aquarium News* articles?

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Please write to us at:

North Carolina Aquariums

417 N. Blount St.

Raleigh, NC 27601

Email: admin@ncaquariums.com

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Renewing is EASY!

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Call 1-800-832 FISH

2. Web site:

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MEMBERSHIPS (download an
application for mailing)

3. By Mail:

Complete the membership form on
p. 13. Write **RENEWAL** at the top,
then clip and mail!

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Soundings

By Jay Barnes, Director
NC Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores

Mark your calendars for May 19, when the new Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores opens its doors for the first time since December 2003! You'll be amazed at the spectacular changes that have taken place.

After a brief ribbon-cutting ceremony in late morning, visitors will be invited inside to explore the new Aquarium. A huge crowd is expected, and although the parking area has tripled, parking will still be tight. To help ease the congestion, the Aquarium will remain open until 9 p.m. on Friday, May 19, and Saturday, May 20.

There's almost no limit to the fun and excitement you'll find inside, especially for youngsters. From otter feeding programs to themed puppet performances, the Aquarium will feature many new educational offerings. A few of the most popular activities require fees and have limited availability, such as sleepovers for groups (yes, sleeping with the fishes); Aquarium-themed birthday parties; behind-the-scenes tours (some of which include animal-feeding opportunities); and our ever-popular boat excursions. Family Night will be a new event with lots of activities on Thursdays in July, when the Aquarium remains open until 9 p.m.

The new Aquarium will also be popular for evening parties, weddings, receptions and other private events. Bookings for 2006 are already under way. To learn more, visit our website at www.ncaquariums.com, or contact Events Coordinator Becky Kappel at 252-247-4003. The website also lists information about the Volunteer Program, Volunteer Dive Program, summer internships

and other Aquarium news and opportunities.

As you know, a NC Aquarium Society membership has many benefits, but the most obvious is unlimited free admission – not just to the Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores, but also to the Aquariums at Fort Fisher and Roanoke Island, as well as to the NC Zoo and more than 150 other zoos and aquariums around the country. Use your member benefits to enjoy your new Aquarium!

We all know how popular the Aquarium will be in 2006. Pick the right time to come to get the most out of your visit. It's tempting to pile into the car and head to the Aquarium on dreary, rainy summer days, but everyone else has the same idea. You'll be better off coming on a sunny day in the early morning.

We look forward to seeing you this spring and summer!

In Memoriam

The NC Aquariums lost a friend and avid supporter in November with the passing of John F. McNair III, of Winston-Salem. Although retired as President of Wachovia Bank, John remained actively involved in a number of business and civic organizations, including the NC Aquarium Society board of directors. Our sincere condolences go out to his wife Martha and the McNair family.



Photo by Styron Jarvis

Contents for Summer 2006

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Jennifer Blaine captured this stunning shot of a sea cucumber for the Aquariums' 2005 Photo Contest. The photo won her an Honorable Mention.

On the Cover: Divers descend into the 306,000-gallon *Living Shipwreck* exhibit as part of an interactive public program at the new Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores. See story on page 6. Photo by Jacob Rudolph

Cover Inset: William Lawson of Fayetteville snapped this prize-winning cuttlefish photo in the *Exotic Aquatics* exhibit at the Aquarium at Fort Fisher. The shot won him an Honorable Mention in the Aquariums' 2005 Underwater Photo Contest. See Photo Winners story on page 8.

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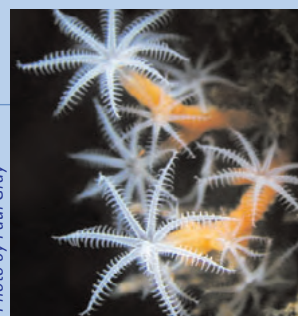


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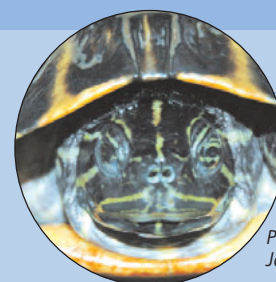


Photo by
Jacob Rudolph

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Cultivating Cuttlefish

By Bob Roush, Public Relations Coordinator, NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher



Cuttlefish change their color and body patterns in quick, brilliant flashes. Photo by Bill Russ, courtesy of NC Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development

If the European cuttlefish (*Sepia officinalis*) look right at home in their new *Exotic Aquatics* exhibit at Fort Fisher, they should. All of them were born here, hatched actually, in a tank just a few yards away in the Aquarium's saltwater holding area.

"These are the offspring of a shipment we received more than a year ago," explained aquarist Ryan McAlarney, coordinator of the propagation effort.

Because cuttlefish have short life spans, like their squid and octopus cousins, maintaining an exhibit can be a challenge. "They live only 12 to 18 months, depending on water temperature and other factors," said McAlarney.

Breeding readiness appears first in the male cuttlefish, signaled by increased aggressiveness and a "zebra" pattern on the lower-most arms. In a head-to-head encounter, the male passes a sperm packet to the female, who fertilizes her eggs internally. Weeks later, she expels hundreds of eggs in grape-like clusters, then attaches them to structures inside the tank.

Feeding the tiny hatchlings presents another challenge. Brine shrimp are standard fare, but mysids – another tiny shrimp – help round out their diet.



Ryan McAlarney coordinates the cuttlefish breeding program at the Aquarium at Fort Fisher.

Photo by Bob Roush

River Otters, River Names

By Julie Powers, Public Relations Coordinator
NC Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores

After considering more than 1,200 suggestions, the Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores decided its two new river otters ought to be named for the Neuse and Pungo rivers. Names are important in training the fun-loving creatures for their Aquarium life, and Neuse and Pungo have adapted well to their new home in the expanded Aquarium.

To name the otters, the Aquarium asked the public to submit names connected to North Carolina. Enthusiastic participants statewide raided reference books and websites, and lobbied to name the otters after pirates, presidents, TV stars, NASCAR drivers, beverages, singers, cities – even sediments.

"Asking the public to help us name the otters was another means to serve our educational mission," said Director Jay Barnes. "People told us they learned a lot about North Carolina and had fun doing it."



North American river otters are curious and intelligent.

Photo by Tom Gillespie, NC Zoo



Summer at the Aquariums



Photo by Bob Roush

It's time to get back outside, and the Aquariums are gearing up for marsh trips, beach hikes, canoe outings, collecting cruises – all designed with visitors in mind. For a complete list of summer activities at each Aquarium log on to www.ncaquariums.com.

Aquarium on Roanoke Island

Aquatic Adventures day camp returns this summer, with fishing expeditions, salt marsh excursions, lab dissections, behind-the-scenes tours and other exciting activities. Day camp sessions have doubled, with two sessions for ages 7 through 9 and two for ages 10 through 12.

Other thematic events include Reptile Week June 12–16 and Aug. 7–11, and Ocean Awareness Week July 10–14. Reptile Week features films, programs and live animals, and Ocean Awareness Week focuses on fascinating facts, myths, shipwrecks and the mysterious world beneath the sea.

Additional popular activities, such as crabbing classes and coastal crafts, also appear on the summer calendar. For more information, call 1-866-332-3475, or 252-473-3494.



Photo by Jaime Haynes

Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores

A new Aquarium and new programs promise a bumper crop of fun and innovative activities this summer. Many hands-on, feet-wet adventures involve visitors in a variety of experiences, live animal encounters, discovery labs and aquarium-guided explorations.

Day camps target four age groups: Aquatic Adventures for rising 2nd and 3rd graders; Coastal Explorers for rising 4th and 5th graders; Sea Scholars for rising 6th and 7th graders; and Surf Camp for rising 8th and 9th graders.

Other choices for visitors include onboard collecting cruises, Bogue Sound kayaking, canoe picnic paddles, barrier island adventures and many more out and about activities in area waters and maritime forests. For more information, call 1-866-294-3477 or 252-247-4003.



Photo by Bob Roush

Aquarium at Fort Fisher

It's all about water at Fort Fisher this summer, and there's much to choose from.

Week-long day camps in June, July and August offer activities tailored to three age groups. All campers have fun indoors and out, learning about life of the salt marsh, the beach and the open ocean.

Visitors of any age can select from summer programs that span an hour or an afternoon – crabbing and clamming, canoeing, surfing and surf fishing are just a few. Each is a delightful blend of learning and fun. For more information, call 1-866-301-3476, or 910-458-8259.



Aquatic Invaders

By Peggy Sloan, Education Curator, NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher

Goldfish, lionfish, water hyacinth and other aquatic species are changing native habitats. In the world of science they're known as aquatic invasive species (AIS) – plants and animals that are not a problem in their native environments, but when introduced to a new habitat can take over and displace native species.

AIS are often introduced through naïve actions, but once successfully established they're virtually impossible to remove or control. The results: negative environmental impacts, economic burdens and threats to human health.

The National Sea Grant College Program recognized a valuable resource for bringing this issue to light through the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA). More than 140 million people visit AZA accredited institutions annually, and North Carolina and Georgia Sea Grant, AZA and the NC Aquariums are sharing their expertise to develop an Aquatic Invasive Species toolkit. The National Sea Grant College Program endorsed this partnership by awarding \$300,00 for the project.

The toolkit contains materials for an interactive AIS public program, and provides audiences with effective tools to address regional issues.

The kits will be delivered to all 214 AZA institutions. This is the first national effort to bring programming, based on Sea Grant's extensive AIS research, to all AZA institutions.

An informed public can prevent further introductions and reduce the spread of AIS. For more info, contact Peggy Sloan at 910-458-8259, ext. 230, or Peggy.Sloan@ncmail.net.



Photo courtesy of The Charlotte Observer

Hydrilla has shown up in Lake Norman and Mountain Island Lake in North Carolina. Sighted three years ago in Mountain Island Lake, the invasive weed now covers about 600 acres of the lake.

Aquarium Comes to 'Surface'

By Bob Roush, Public Relations Coordinator, NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher

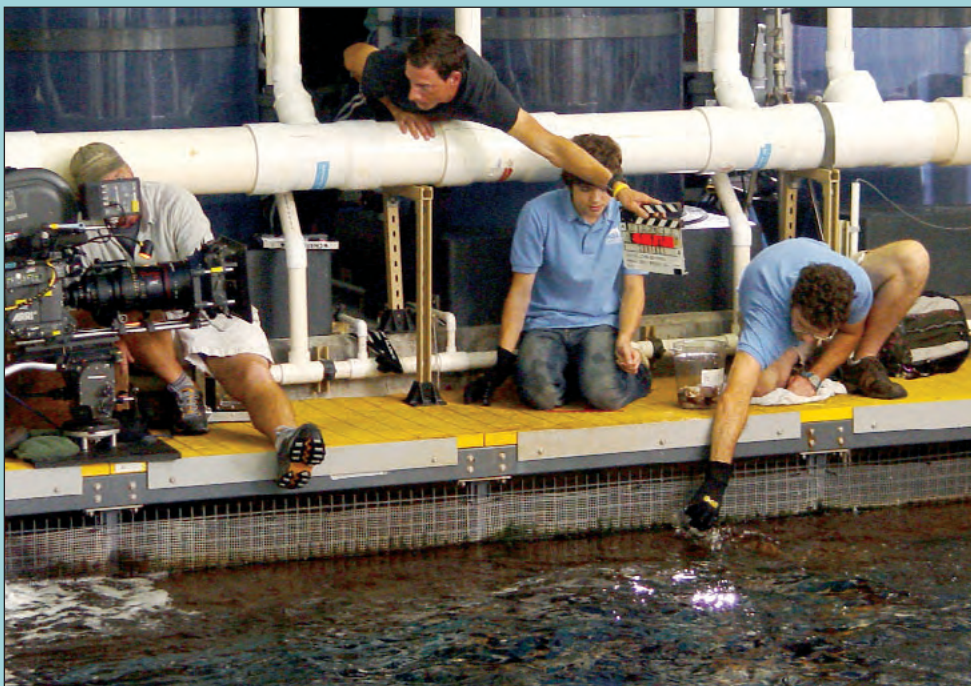


Photo by Bob Roush

The camera rolls as Miles and his mentor feed stingrays in the Cape Fear Shoals exhibit.

Viewers of NBC's sci-fi series "Surface" this past winter got an eyeful of one of our favorite places – the Aquarium at Fort Fisher.

Production crews filmed the prime-time drama at the Aquarium over several weeks, setting up lights and cameras in exhibit galleries, holding areas, the conservatory, and even the gift shop.

The show, filmed primarily in the Wilmington area, features teenage protagonist Miles, played by Carter Jenkins, whose father finagles him an Aquarium internship. But Miles, you see, has a pet – a cute baby sea creature named Nim, the product of a genetic-engineering scheme with sinister origins.

In one episode, Miles and a friend take little Nim for an unauthorized late-night swim in the *Cape Fear Shoals* tank. Aquarium dive-team volunteers Tim McAuliffe and Erin Walters performed the scene as the actors' body doubles. Nim was added digitally.

Will "Surface" see another season? The jury is still out. For more information, visit www.nbc.com/surface.



Lights, Camera, Action...

By Matt Holzmman, Divemaster
NC Aquarium on Roanoke Island

The Aquarium on Roanoke Island was the site for a new training film over the winter. Being produced by Divers Alert Network (DAN), the world's premiere scuba diving safety and research organization, footage was shot for the new course tentatively titled "Dive First Aid for Professional Divers."

"It's primarily targeted toward divers in aquariums, but also toward scientific divers," said Eric Douglas, DAN Director of Training. Footage was shot behind the scenes of several Aquarium exhibits, where both actors and Aquarium staff members demonstrated emergency and first aid procedures.

The Aquarium was chosen as the film site when Douglas contacted Aquarium Dive Safety Officer Patrick Murphy and Bill McDermott, Aquarium volunteer diver and owner of Outer Banks Dive Center.

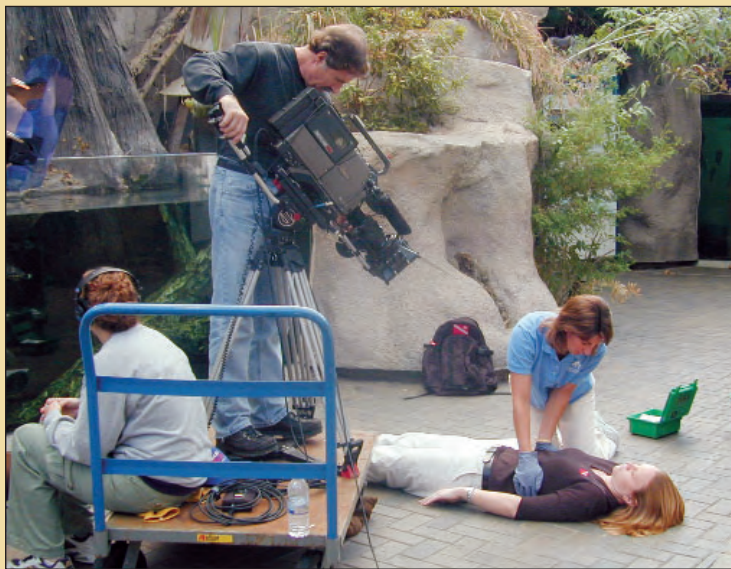


Photo by Matt Holzmman

Live re-enactments of dive emergencies were part of the footage shot by DAN's film crew.

Both Murphy and McDermott have provided feedback to the DAN Training Department in the past.

When asked why the Aquarium on Roanoke Island was selected, Douglas cited several reasons. "But the main reason is the excellent working relationship between Murphy, Bill and myself," he said. "I knew they would be very helpful. My instinct proved to be more right than I imagined. The entire film crew was blown away by how accommodating everyone was."

Aquarium Director J.P. McCann was excited about the project. "It was a great opportunity and privilege to be chosen by DAN," he said. "It speaks to the quality of our staff and volunteer dive program, and the film, on top of promoting safety and education, is a great opportunity for exposure, not just for us here at Roanoke Island but for all the North Carolina Aquariums."



All three Aquariums have volunteer dive teams that undergo rigorous dive and safety training. Here a volunteer cleans algae from the glass.



Photo by Bob Roush

Family Night

It's fun and games for the entire family on Thursdays in July, when the Aquariums remain open until 9 p.m. for Family Night.

Each Aquarium will host a series of varied activities that promise to delight, entertain and uncover facts, secrets and myths about marine life, shipwrecks, maritime characters and more.

Live animal programs, games, discovery carts, scavenger hunts, crafts, films, puppets and impromptu surprises are some of the planned activities. Events are designed for all ages so everyone can join the fun.

Make plans to visit on Thursday nights in July. You won't want to miss the festivities!



New Aquarium Debuts

By Julie Powers, Public Relations Coordinator
NC Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores

Prepare to be awed when the new Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores opens May 19!

The Aquarium is triple its former size, growing from 29,000 square feet to 93,000 square feet. Its \$25-million expansion, the last of the state's three Aquariums to be renovated, began in January 2004.

Under its new theme, "From the Mountains to the Sea," the Aquarium presents five galleries – *Mountain, Piedmont, Coastal Plain, Tidal*

Waters and Ocean – depicting the state's aquatic zones.

Approximately 2,500 animals, many of them new specimens, populate nearly 40 exhibits that replicate these aquatic ecosystems.

Before renovation, the Aquarium's largest display held 12,000 gallons, compared to the 306,000-gallon *Living Shipwreck* in the new *Ocean Gallery*. This centerpiece exhibit takes visitors into the domain of off-shore divers. Sand tiger sharks, moray eels, colorful fishes and other animals congregate around a three-quarter-size replica of the *U-352*, a German submarine sunk off our coast by the U.S. Coast Guard in World War II. To add to visitors' sense of being downunder, divers in the exhibit will chat with visitors via underwater microphones.



Aquarium nearly complete at press time.



The U-352 sub gets finishing touches.



Dramatic waterfall.



Fanciful exterior canopies.

Pine Knoll Shores

Aquarium NEWS



Artist's rendering of completed Aquarium.



Custom tiles by Kim Mosher.

Two other shipwreck exhibits, *Queen Anne's Revenge* and *Caribsea*, provide living snapshots of the aquatic life attracted to wreck habitats.

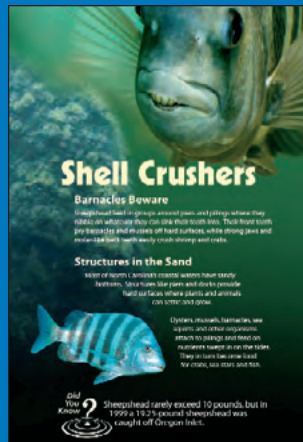
A few other highlights:

- A thundering 32-foot Smoky Mountain waterfall
- Two fun-loving river otters
- A mysterious cypress swamp
- A stingray touch pool
- A tidal touch pool
- Lionfish, jellyfish, seahorses and octopus displays
- Family Night on Thursdays in July
- Innovative educational programs and special activities

With the addition of Soundside Hall – a 125-seat event room with soaring ceilings – the Aquarium anticipates becoming a popular venue for weddings, celebrations and other gatherings.

Admission to the new Aquarium is \$8 for adults; \$7 for ages 62 and over; \$6 for children 6-17. Children under 6, registered North Carolina school groups, and members of the North Carolina Aquarium Society are admitted free. Discounted tickets, offering 25 per cent off face value, are also available in blocks of 50 or more. To purchase block tickets contact Visitor Services Coordinator Cindy Meyers at 252-247-4003.

The Aquarium is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week, with the exception of special evening events, and is closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.



New information panels.

Living Shipwreck Facts

- 🐟 The exhibit holds 306,000 gallons of water. To date, it's the largest aquarium in North Carolina.
- 🐟 The water is 16 feet deep and weighs nearly 2.5 million pounds.
- 🐟 Each of the 180 concrete pilings under the tank measures 14-inches across, extends 44 feet into the ground, and is set three feet apart to support the tremendous weight of the water.
- 🐟 Pumps and filtration systems filter the entire tank in about an hour.
- 🐟 The largest window is 65 feet long, 10 feet high and 8.25 inches thick. Windows are acrylic, not glass.
- 🐟 The submarine is a three-quarter-size fiberglass replica of the original *U-352* wreck. It and all corals and sponges are made of fiberglass and plastic.
- 🐟 Saltwater for the exhibit is pumped in from Bogue Sound behind the Aquarium.
- 🐟 Most divers in the tank are trained volunteers who help clean and maintain the exhibit.
- 🐟 Many of the animals were collected by the Aquarium staff, with the help of local commercial fishermen. The animals eat more than 100 pounds of seafood each week.
- 🐟 The sharks are fed regularly, which means they're less likely to eat other fish. This also makes it safer for the divers.
- 🐟 The exhibit was designed with sharks in mind and features rounded corners to allow for long glide paths.



Photo Contest Winners Announced!

More than 40 contestants submitted 170 photos in the NC Aquariums' 2005 Amateur Underwater Photo Contest! The contest was sponsored again this year by East Carolina Bank.

Guidelines require that photos be taken in waters off North Carolina; within the state's freshwater systems; or in one of the state's three public Aquariums. Winning entries are chosen for creativi-

ty, proficiency of underwater photography, representation of North Carolina's marine organisms and habitats, and depiction of the beauty and diversity of North Carolina's aquatic life.

First place winners in each category are awarded \$500; second place winners \$200; third place winners \$100; and Honorable Mentions \$50. In this edition of *Aquarium News*, Honorable Mention

photos appear as the inset photo on the cover and as feature photos on page one and the back cover.

Amateur photographers are encouraged to take photos throughout the year. The Aquariums must receive submissions by Dec. 31 each year. Winners are announced in March. To view winning entries, or for more information log on to www.ncaquariums.com.

Underwater Close-ups

First Place: Anemone
Vlad Pambucol
Raleigh, NC

Second Place: Moray
Sandy Smith
Duncansville, PA

Third Place: Blenny
James Smith
Duncansville, PA





Underwater Open

First Place:

Loggerhead sea turtle
Sandy Smith
Duncansville, PA



Second Place:

Sand tiger sharks
Paul Gray
Newark, DE

Third Place: Angelfish

Vlad Pambucol
Raleigh, NC



At the Aquariums

First Place: Newt and

bullfrog tadpole
Katherine Finch
Wilmington, NC

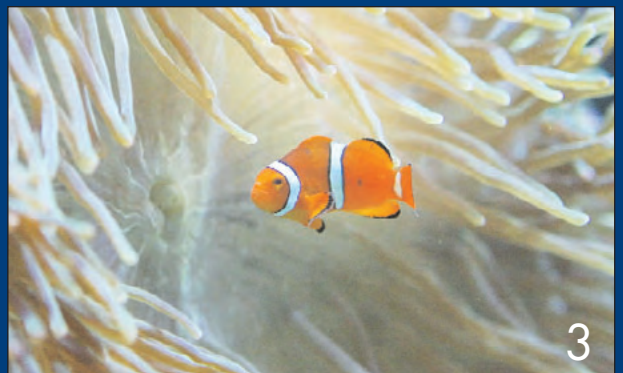


Second Place:

Child silhouette
Stefani Greene
Leland, NC

Third Place: Clown

anemonefish
Stefani Greene
Leland, NC





Priceless Partners

By Julie Powers, Public Relations Coordinator
NC Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores

At the Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores, Volunteer Coordinator Chris Carlin talks in military lingo. She speaks of "new recruits" and "veterans" and "re-upping."



Photos by Julie Powers

Carlin, right, signs up Kevin and Brenda Geraghty for the volunteer force at the new Aquarium.

Little wonder, as she commands a sizeable army of 200 volunteers at the new Aquarium. The contributions of the unpaid force go beyond the tasks they do.

While many come from retiree communities, folks from all walks of life donate time and talent. A number of scientists from local marine research facilities have signed on. Volunteer duties range from greeting school groups to staffing discovery carts to assisting at the touch tank to helping the new horticulturist maintain the landscaped grounds.



Volunteer Coordinator Chris Carlin

"Volunteers are often the face of the Aquarium," says Carlin. "Their smiles, their enthusiasm and their love of the animals can make all the difference in a visitor's experience."



The North Carolina
AQUARIUM
at Pine Knoll Shores



The North Carolina
Aquarium
at Pine Knoll Shores
requests the pleasure of your company at the

Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony

Friday, May 19, 2006
10:30 AM

The Aquarium will open to the public
following the ribbon-cutting.

‘A Little Bit of Sugar ...’

By Joanne Harcke, Conservation and Research Coordinator, NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher

In a case study at the NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher, and with the assistance from the NC State College of Veterinary Medicine, an injured freshwater turtle was recently treated with a daily dose of sugar. Yep, sugar.

The river cooter (*Pseudemys concinna*) arrived at the Aquarium with a crushed upper shell (carapace), but instead of using antibiotics or attempting surgery the decision was made to pack the wound with granulated sugar. Within several weeks the wound began to heal and remained infection free. The turtle's prognosis

is good and it will eventually be released into the wild.

The use of sugar or honey for treating wounds in humans is widely documented in medicine. Both have been used for healing



Photo by Jacob Rudolph

bedsores, skin ulcers and burns. Sugar or honey on topical wounds can speed healing, keep the wound germ free, and even reduce scarring. References also exist for veterinary medicine, but only for use on mammals.

River cooters are found in the coastal and Piedmont regions of our state, typically in freshwater rivers and large streams. Habitat loss and road kills are two of their greatest threats.



Photo by John Mauser

AZA Award Winner

Dee Thonnard, education outreach coordinator at the Aquarium at Fort Fisher, earned an award from the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) to attend a week-long conservation education workshop at Nebraska's Henry Doorly Zoo. The award, presented in partnership with Disney's Animal Kingdom, covered travel expenses, tuition and a stipend.



Dee Thonnard

Photo by Bob Roush

"The workshop fit so directly into what we do," said Thonnard, who over the past year traveled the state to present over 200 educational conservation programs to more than 6,000 students.

The Aquariums are accredited members of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA), an organization working together to provide innovation and leadership in education, conservation advocacy and animal care.

What Big Eyes You Have!

By Britt Purtee, Aquarist, NC Aquarium on Roanoke Island

More often than not, people focus on the larger, more impressive animals at the Aquarium. Ask a youngster after his visit what his favorite animal was and he'll most likely chatter excitedly about the sharks, or alligators, or getting to pet the stingrays.

Unless it's your job to take care of the smaller animals, you miss many of their fascinating

features. Take the little fish called the short bigeye, *Pristigenys alta*, for example.

The bigeye likes to hang out in reefs and rocky areas. How it got its name is pretty obvious, but why does it have those gosh-darn big eyes? In the animal world, big eyes mean nocturnal. Those eyes allow it to collect all the available light in its dim environment.

Nocturnal animals have many more rod cells than humans. A reflective layer in the retina allows available light to bounce back to the retina, as evidenced when your headlights shine in the eyes of a possum or cat at night. This gives some animals "night vision." Such is the case with the bigeye.

I hope this sheds some light on one of the smaller sea creatures. The next time you visit the Aquarium check out those oversized luminous eyes!



Photo by Lori Watkins

Society Presents Excellence Award



Sherry White

Photo by Julie Powers

The NC Aquarium Society recently presented its annual Award of Excellence to Sherry White, former public relations coordinator for the NC Aquarium at Pine

Knoll Shores. The award recognizes the Aquarium employee who best exemplifies the goal of outstanding public service and performance. Candidates are nominated by their peers.

Sherry recently took the post of editor of the award-winning *Aquarium News*, and is also editor of the popular column series, *Ask the Aquarium*, featured in newspapers across the state.



GET ON THE LIST!



Be one of the many Aquarium fans to sport a special license plate, featuring the Aquarium spadefish logo. These colorful plates are ready to go to press as soon as commitments and payments reach 300. The cost of the specialty tag is just \$30, in addition to your regular annual license plate fee.

You can also personalize your plate for an additional \$30, which allows you to choose a combination of four letters or numbers. Creative phrases already ordered include FINS, OBX, FISH, TUNA, WAVE and H2O.



To order your specialized plate, fill out the application below and clip and mail to the N.C. Aquarium Society, 417 N. Blount St., Raleigh, NC 27601.

Please make your check or money order payable to the NC Aquarium Society.

For more information, call the NC Aquarium Society at 1.800.832.FISH (3474). Thank you for your interest and support of the Aquariums!



Application for the NORTH CAROLINA AQUARIUMS LICENSE PLATE

Please check one: (Note: These fees are in addition to your regular annual license plate fee.)

☐ **NC Aquariums License Plate \$30.00**

☐ **NC Aquariums Personalized Plate \$60.00***

* Four (4) spaces are allowed on the NC Aquariums Personalized Plate.

Please enter your choices:

1st choice: _____

2nd choice: _____

3rd choice: _____

Name: _____
First Middle Last

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Current NC Plate Number: _____

Driver License Number: _____ Vehicle Identification Number: _____

Vehicle Information: _____ Year _____ Model _____ Make _____ Body Style _____

Owner's Certification of Liability Insurance

I certify that I have financial responsibility as required by law for the motor vehicle above.

Print or type full name of insurance company authorized in NC – not agency or group

Policy Number – If policy is not issued, name of agency binding coverage

Signature of Owner Date of Certification

Please send check or money order with this application made payable to: **NC Aquarium Society, 417 N. Blount St., Raleigh, NC 27601**



Wildlife Winner



John Mauser, aquarist at the Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores, took this striking photo of a harbor seal headed to sea at Cape Lookout. The shot won him first place in the mammal category of the 2005 *Wildlife in North Carolina* Photo Competition. Judges cited Mauser's "impeccable timing" in capturing the action.

More than 640 North Carolina photographers submitted 3,324 entries in nine categories in the *Wildlife in North Carolina* com-

petition. View the winning photos in the January edition of *Wildlife in North Carolina*, or log onto www.wildlife.state.nc.us.

The Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores also appreciates Mauser's talents – in a big way. His photo of the marsh that adjoins the Aquarium property served as the image for a 17-foot-long mural that will greet visitors as they enter the new Aquarium.

Join the Family!

If you enjoy the Aquariums (not to mention the NC Zoo), and still haven't become a member, you're missing out on an incredible deal. Aquarium membership allows year-round admission to all three NC Aquariums, the Zoo, and more than 150 other US zoos

and aquariums. A family of two adults and children or grandchildren under 18 can enjoy the Aquariums all year for only \$50, and take advantage of 10% discounts on programs and Gift Shop purchases. Your membership helps support Aquarium education programs and activities, which each year reach over a million visitors, including 100,000 school students from across the state.

It's Easy!

To join the NC Aquarium Society or to send a gift membership to someone special, just fill out the application below and mail it in. You can also join by calling 1-800-832-FISH (3474), Ext. 229. Download additional membership applications from www.ncaquariums.com.



Aquarium Membership Application

NORTH CAROLINA
AQUARIUM SOCIETY

☐ \$30 Individual Membership

☐ \$100 Donor Membership

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The N.C. Aquarium Society is a non-profit organization, and contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law.



Resplendent in vibrant colors, this blenny was caught resting by Paul Gray. The photo won him an Honorable Mention in the Aquariums' 2005 Underwater Photo Contest.



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